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9-21-1995

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University Marketing and Communications, "09/21/1995 - Board Approves EIU Budget Request.pdf" (1995). 1995. 444.
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95-281

September 21, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BOARD APPROVES EIU BUDGET REQUEST

CHARLESTON -- The Board of Governors Universities trustees recommended a 12.1 percent increase in Eastern Illinois University's operating budget for fiscal year 1997 at their board meeting on Thursday in Springfield.

The increase would translate into an additional \$7 million for FY97 (July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997) and would boost EIU's current \$58 million appropriated operating budget to slightly over \$65 million.

The BGU's budget recommendation for Eastern will be forwarded to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) in October and to the General Assembly and Gov. Jim Edgar next spring for final approval.

Eastern requested a \$68 million operating budget for 1996-97, an 18 percent increase over the 1995-96 operating budget. The BGU reduced that to \$65 million, a 12.1 percent increase.

Since the BGU will be dissolved in January, the trustees recommended that \$1.8 million originally appropriated for the Chancellor's Office be distributed across

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ADD 1/1/1/1

APPROPRIATION

the five BGU universities to address transition costs.

A total of \$259,100 was recommended by the BGU for Eastern to cover transition costs. Even if this full amount is received by the university, there would still remain \$130,900 in unfunded anticipated expenses.

The budget request also calls for a 5.5 percent salary increase for faculty and a 4.5 percent increase for other employees.

The 4.5 percent increase reflects a 3.5 percent inflation increase and an additional 1 percent equity adjustment for all employees. Since IBHE studies show that Eastern faculty are paid below their peers at comparable institutions, an additional 1 percent equity adjustment is requested, bringing their recommended salary increase to 5.5 percent.

The actual percentage of salary increase will depend on negotiations with various bargaining units.

Eastern requested a 10 percent increase or \$4.4 million for faculty and staff salaries in 1996-97. The BGU recommended \$2.3 million.

The BGU also recommended a 25 percent increase or a total of \$254,000 for sick leave payouts at Eastern. The university is mandated to pay employees half of their unused sick leave when they leave the institution.

Funding, totalling more than \$3.7 million, has been requested for new academic programs, expanding or improving existing programs and reducing deferred maintenance.

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ADD 2/2/2/2

APPROPRIATION

Two new academic programs at Eastern are included in the university's FY97 budget recommendation -- a bachelor of science in geography degree and a master of science in education degree program in curriculum and instruction.

The BGU's capital budget request for Eastern of \$27.2 million includes nine projects, with \$16.8 million for Booth Library remodeling, rehabilitation and a 20,000 square foot addition topping the list.

In other action, the board recommended that Eastern receive \$17,000 for anticipated new operation and maintenance costs (utilities and janitorial and security services) associated with the Buzzard Building renovation project.